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**Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)**

## Letter dated 5 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

I have the honour to write you in reply to your letter of 11 March 2015 requesting information on the steps undertaken to effectively implement paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 2204 (2015).

In this connection, I have the further honour to enclose herewith information on the steps taken by the Republic of Albania to implement measures imposed by paragraphs 11 (assets freeze) and 15 (travel ban) of resolution 2140 (2014) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Ferit **Hoxha**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 5 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

### Implementation of Security Council resolution 2204 (2015) by the Republic of Albania

1. The Republic of Albania is currently implementing the Anti-Terrorism Strategy 2011-2015 and the related Action Plan as well as the National Cross-Cutting Strategy on the Fight against Organized Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism for 2013-2020. These documents assign specific and relevant obligations and responsibilities to central and local institutions with regard to anti-terrorism activities.

2. The Ministry of the Interior, through the Anti-Terrorism Directorate of the State Police, pursuant to applicable law and the above strategies, collects and administers relevant records related to travel bans. Border crossing points are duly notified and constantly updated on the names of persons listed in the Total Information Management System (TIMS). Once identified by the System, individuals suspected by anti-terrorism structures of terrorism activities are subject to special procedures.

3. With a view to increasing efficiency, State Police structures also have access to biometric information (through biometric passports and photos).

4. On the basis of available information, it has been concluded that Albanian citizens participating in the Syrian conflict have reached the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic using three different itineraries, as follows:

- Land route — Albania-Greece-Turkey-Syria
- Land route — Albania-Macedonia-Bulgaria-Turkey-Syria
- Air travel — Albania-Turkey and then land route until the territory of Syria

5. It is assumed that travel expenses and other costs for the trip to Syria have usually been covered by the organizers; however, financial supporters have in several cases directly financed travel and other costs of individuals participating in foreign conflicts.

6. During the period 2013-2014, the State Police, in collaboration with the Office of Prosecution for Serious Crimes, investigated several individuals suspected of being organizers, financial supporters and/or participants in foreign conflicts.

7. Following the investigations, nine individuals have been arrested and international arrest warrants have been issued for four individuals on criminal charges provided for in the following articles of the Criminal Code:

- Article 231: recruitment of persons for committing acts with terrorist purposes or financing of terrorism;
- Article 232/a: incitement, public call and propaganda for committing acts with terrorist purposes; and
- Article 265: inciting hate or disputes on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

8. Since 2014, the number of Albanian citizens participating in current conflicts in Syria/Iraq (for terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Nusra) has significantly decreased, owing mainly to new legal provisions in force providing for the criminal responsibility of individuals who organize, recruit or participate in conflicts abroad. Relevant investigations, followed by the arrest of organizers, are also believed to have had a significant deterrent effect.

9. During 2014, there were no cases of asset freezing pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 2140 (2014).